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SUNDAY
JANUARY 10, 1954

Sunday. The church bells pealed, the snow fell heavily. We walked, talked, ate and read. A long walk to Gruner Baum for lunch and return, about forty minutes each way. Read today a couple of articles in Historia and also Georges Mongrédien's Madame de Montespun et l'Affaire des Poisons.

The latter book presents a dreadful picture of poisoning, black masses and superstitions in 17th Century Paris. There is mention of the appallingly vicious Marquise de Brinvilliers, executed for her crimes, whose house, still existing in the Marais, we visited some years ago.

Tonight read James I by Charles Williams. He was lucky to have survived the ambitions of his bloodthirsty Scotch relatives and vassals to put him out of the way. Williams was a famous theologian, and his interpretation of the influences of religion on James' character is very absorbing.

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